

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2005

Mr. David M. Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

Recently, Special Counsel Scott Bloch testified in the Senate on the operations of the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, including organizational and procedural changes he has implemented. We would like the Government Accountability Office to study how the OSC assigns incoming cases to specific units, including political offices, and to individuals within such units.

We also are interested in the quality of case data at OSC. In your March 2004 report, *Strategy for Reducing Persistent Backlog of Cases Should be Provided to Congress*, you reviewed data on cases pending within OSC. As part of your review, you identified discrepancies in the data that made it unusable without additional efforts on the part of OSC to correct them. In light of the difficulties you encountered, we are concerned that the data in OSC's database may be unreliable and that, as a result, information being reported on caseloads and backlogs may be in error.

Given this context, we would appreciate your addressing the following issues:

1. What are OSC's policies and procedures for assigning incoming cases to organizational units, including political offices, as well as to specific individuals within those units? Are these policies and procedures followed consistently for all cases? If not, in which cases were there deviations and what was the nature of the deviation? What were OSC's reasons for such departures?
2. To what extent is data in OSC systems, including both paper files and computer files, related to caseloads reliable? Have the types of discrepancies identified by GAO during its earlier work been corrected? If not, what plans does OSC have to do so?

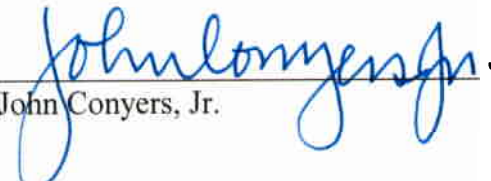
Mr. David M. Walker

Page Two

July 28, 2005

Finally, please complete your study by December 31, 2005. Please reply through Sampak Garg with Rep. Conyers, B-351 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (tel: 202-225-6906; fax: 202-225-7680) and through Joe Racalto with Rep. Frank, 2252 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 (tel: 202-225-5931; fax: 202-0182).

Sincerely,


John Conyers, Jr.


Barney Frank